AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for identifying, categorizing, and sharing preferred web site links over a communications network via a web key tool, comprising:

receiving a request from a user client system to incorporate information relating to a web site into said web key tool;

launching said web key tool;

selecting an option on a menu screen's list of options provided by said web key tool, wherein said option relates to said request to incorporate said information;

associating said information with a category;

transmitting said information to a central storage location associated with said web key tool;

processing the information, the processing resulting in approved information, the processing including:

checking to ensure that the information is complete;

checking to ensure that the information is not a duplicate of information submitted by authorized system users; and

verifying that a user at the user client system is authorized to submit the request;

saving the approved information in said central storage location;

updating related database files with respect to said approved information; and

providing authorized system users with access to said approved information in the central storage location via an input option at the user client system;

wherein the input option causes the web key tool to retrieve the information from the central storage location without opening a web browser application via said communications network to the authorized system users.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said information relating to a web site includes:

a universal resource locator for said web site;

a description of said web site;

a web address of said web site; and

a hypertext transfer protocol link.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said associating said information with a category includes:

selecting a category from a list of pre-established categories provided by said web key tool; and

creating a new category where no suitable category from said list of categories is found.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said approved information is accessible to said authorized system users via a web page.

5. (Currently amended) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable program code for identifying, categorizing, and sharing preferred web site links over a communications network via a web key tool, the storage medium including instructions for causing said a computer to implement a method, comprising:

receiving a request from a user client system to incorporate information relating to a web site into said web key tool;

launching said web key tool;

selecting an option on a menu screen's list of options provided by said web key tool, wherein said option relates to said request to incorporate said information;

associating said information with a category;

transmitting said information to a central storage location associated with said web key tool;

processing the information, the processing resulting in approved information, the processing including:

checking to ensure that the information is complete;

checking to ensure that the information is not a duplicate of information submitted by authorized system users; and

verifying that a user at the user client system is authorized to submit the request;

saving the approved information in said central storage location;

updating related database files with respect to said approved information; and

providing ~~authorized system users with~~ access to said approved information ~~in the central storage location via an input option at the user client system;~~

~~wherein the input option causes the web key tool to retrieve the information from the central storage location without opening a web browser application~~via said communications network to the authorized system users.

6. (Original) The storage medium of claim 5, wherein said information relating to a web site includes:

a universal resource locator for said web site;

a description of said web site;

a web address of said web site; and

a hypertext transfer protocol link.

7. (Original) The storage medium of claim 5, wherein said associating said information with a category includes:

selecting a category from a list of pre-established categories provided by said web key tool; and

creating a new category where no suitable category from said list of categories is found.

8. (Original) The storage medium of claim 5, wherein said approved information is accessible to said authorized system users via a web page.

9. (Currently amended) A system for identifying, categorizing, and sharing preferred web site links over a communications network via a web key tool, comprising:

an organization, comprising:

a server executing the web key tool;

a client system;

a data storage device for providing a centralized storage location for said preferred

web site links;

an administrative client system for controlling access to said data storage device and managing operations provided by said web key tool;

a network link for allowing said server, said client system, said administrative client system, and said data storage device to communicate with each other; and

a link to a second server, wherein said second server provides a source for said preferred web site links;

wherein the web key tool is launched in response to receiving a request from the client system to incorporate information relating to a web site into the web key tool, the web key tool performing:

associating said information with a category;

transmitting said information to the central storage location;

processing the information, the processing resulting in approved information, the processing including:

checking to ensure that the information is complete;

checking to ensure that the information is not a duplicate of information submitted by authorized system users; and

verifying that a user at the client system is authorized to submit the request;

saving the approved information in said central storage location; and

providing ~~authorized system users with~~ access to said approved information ~~in the central storage location via an input option at the user client system;~~

~~wherein the input option causes the web key tool to retrieve the information from the central storage location without opening a web browser application~~ via said network link to the authorized system users.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein said client system is executing a web browser software program.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein said web key tool is executed by said organization.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said information relating to a web site is a web link, and said associating said information with a category further comprises at least one of:

importing said web link from a currently active web site associated with said web link; and

manually entering a uniform resource locator for the link and a brief description.

14. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 5, wherein said information relating to a web site is a web link, and said associating said information with a category further comprises at least one of:

importing said web link from a currently active web site associated with said web link; and

manually entering a uniform resource locator for the link and a brief description.